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# **DESIGNS**

FOR

# CHURCHES AND CHAPELS,

OF

VARIOUS DIMENSIONS AND STYLES,

&c.

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S. Gosnell, Printer, 8, Little Queen Street, London.

## DESIGNS

FOR

# CHURCHES AND CHAPELS,

OF

VARIOUS DIMENSIONS AND STYLES;

CONSISTING OF

# PLANS, ELEVATIONS, AND SECTIONS, WITH ESTIMATES:

ALSO

#### SOME DESIGNS

FOR

ALTARS, PULPITS, AND STEEPLES.

 $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{Y}$ 

W. F. POCOCK, ARCHITECT AND SURVEYOR;
AUTHOR OF "DESIGNS FOR COTTAGES, PICTURESQUE DWELLINGS, AND VILLAS,"

"MODERN FINISHINGS," &c.

A NEW EDITION.

#### LONDON:

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1824.

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### PREFACE.

It is a fact generally acknowledged, that there is not, at the present period, in this country, sufficient accommodation for the inhabitants in the Buildings erected for Religious Worship: a circumstance which demands the most serious attention, if we consider the nature and importance of religion, and the effects a proper observance of its public ordinances produces on the morals and happiness of the people. The disproportion between the population, and the number of persons that the places of public worship will contain, varies in almost every parish; but in no part of the kingdom, perhaps, is this inconvenience so sensibly felt, as in the environs of the Metropolis, which may be caused by the great extent of some of the parishes, and the extraordinary increase of the population within them during the last twenty years.

No small degree of credit is due to the present Administration, that, while they have seen this deficiency, they have, at the same time, endeavoured to remedy it, by bringing a Bill into the House of Commons, for the purpose of granting £1,000,000 towards the erection of new "Churches," or "Chapels," where they are wanted, or of repairing the old. And this has

been aided by subscriptions, for the same purpose, that are truly characteristic of the liberality and piety of the British nation.

It is not intended by this Act, however, entirely to relieve the various parishes from the expense of providing places of public worship; but rather to afford that assistance, without which new Churches would not be begun; or, if begun, could not be completed, on account of the great additional burden that would fall on the parishioners. These circumstances have led to the present publication, which it is hoped will assist the views of Ministers and others who are desirous of promoting the best interests of the people.

It has always been considered advisable, for the proposers of any measure of a public nature to be prepared with some specific outline of a plan, that will be best calculated to answer the intended purpose, and least likely to meet with opposition. There are two points to which the attention should be principally directed in the building of Churches—the number it is necessary to accommodate, and the expense that will probably attend it. I have, therefore, in the description of these Designs, given the number each will contain, and an estimate of the expense, in order that the question may be brought into a small compass. I have purposely avoided every thing that is splendid and magnificent; and have studied to produce such Designs only, as are plain, suitable to the purpose, and at the least possible expense.

A writer on Architecture says, that "every building should, "by its appearance, express its destination and purpose, and "that some *character* should prevail therein, which is suitable "to, and expressive of, the peculiar end it has to answer. "effect this will require the exertion of the powers of the "mind, the fire of genius, and solidity of judgment; and with-"out this a composition is but a compilation of parts without "meaning or end." Without pretending to the high qualities here mentioned, I have attempted a simplicity of style, not only from taste, but as it happily accords with economy; yet I have been attentive to elegance, by avoiding every thing that is mean or vulgar in appearance. Those who are acquainted with the Art of Design know, that it is much more pleasing to the artist, by boldness of outline, and richness in decoration, to form compositions which produce a striking effect, than to have his powers cramped by the chilling influence of a rigid economy; but the great expense of building in the present day, renders it necessary that this should be one of the first considerations, and that what is deficient in grandeur should be made up by elegant simplicity.

A considerable difference of opinion has prevailed respecting the form of buildings best calculated for religious worship. The old heathen temples will not assist our ideas on the subject, as they were not intended to contain the worshippers in public assemblies. They sacrificed individually, or in small parties; only the principal personages attended the altar, the multitude re-

mained without. In the celebration of their rites, seldom more than a small portion of the people attended at the temple at the same time: it is materially different with us, who are enjoined to attend the worship of God on the same day. In the temple built by Solomon, at Jerusalem, the altar for the sacrifice of the burnt-offering was without the building, in front of the portico; only the altar for the offering of incense was within the house, where the priests officiated alone. The Santa Sophia, built by Constantine, in the city bearing his name, was in the form of a cross, the well-known symbol used by that Emperor, with a dome of a peculiar construction, rising from the intersection of the nave and transept. The long-drawn aisles this form affords, as exemplified also in our ancient cathedrals, are well adapted to the lengthened processions of the Greek and Roman churches; but they are not so well calculated for the simplicity and purity of Protestant worship. The Roman Catholic churches on the Continent are mostly without pews, or fixed seats, throughout the principal part of the building; they are generally confined to that part which we call the choir, while the major part of the congregation have moveable chairs, which are placed according to the fancy of the individuals who occupy them: I have remarked some churches, however, which had fixed seats and pews immediately round the pulpit.

In the Protestant or Reformed Churches, the principal point for consideration is, the most convenient method of seating the greatest number of persons to hear distinctly the voice of the reader

and preacher. The only buildings of antiquity constructed for the purpose of holding an audience were the theatres; these are, consequently, the only authorities applicable to the case to which we can refer. Both the Greek and Roman theatres were formed nearly upon the same principles; they differed chiefly in the ichnography. Of these, the Grecian is to be preferred for our purpose; it is not so simple as the Roman, but it will contain more spectators in the same space. To explain this, it may be observed, that the seats of the spectators (denominated cunei, or wedges, from the wedge-like form of their divisions by the avenues which radiated from the centre), in both cases rose from the ground behind each other in regular gradation; in the Roman theatres they formed a semicircle in front of the proscenium, and enclosed the orchestra; while in the Greek edifices this formed a greater portion of the circle, like the round part of the Greek letter omega  $(\Omega)$ , or as we commonly say, a horse-shoe; it consequently enclosed more space, and gave a longer line for the seats, with the same advantages to the spectators. In buildings of dimensions so large, that the voice of the speaker can hardly reach the extent of the semicircular, or Roman form, it would not be advisable to sweep it off to a greater distance, like the Grecian; but in those of moderate size, where the whole of the audience is within the compass of his voice, no objection on that account can be made to the adoption of the latter; for it will be found on experiment, that some persons placed at a distance in front of the speaker, hear as distinctly as others placed considerably nearer on his side; consequently this form

may be adopted with propriety in buildings of much greater magnitude. In addition to this, the ideas and feelings of gentlemen in the habit of public speaking may be adduced, who unanimously agree in preferring, when they address a large audience, the major part of them being placed in front; and I have, also, been informed, that they can soon ascertain whether their voice is distinctly heard. I have, therefore, chiefly proposed the figure of a parallelogram, with a portion of a circle at the extremity, which comes nearest to the form here recommended.

It will be observed, that the modern practice in constructing buildings for holding an audience, is to cover more than once the site of the edifice. The floor is first appropriated for seats; when more are required, they are obtained, by raising galleries against the walls; these nearly approach the form of the seats in the ancient theatres: the galleries (or porticos, as Vitruvius calls them) in those buildings were appropriated for the seats of the women; but as they were without roofs, or other covering, except temporary awnings to shade the audience from the heat of the sun, their construction was, of course, materially different. It will be seen, that our modern edifices for religious worship, are formed by combining the spectatory part of the ancient buildings before alluded to, with the cells of their temples. Both these possessing the utmost simplicity in their respective forms, have been carried into all the various figures that the imaginations of the moderns could devise; but it is to be hoped that good sense, sound judgment, and correct taste, are now so generally diffused, that public opinion will check this exuberance, and introduce a more chaste and correct style. The construction of more than one gallery has by some been objected to, but I think without any solid reason: it is a very good expedient to contain a large audience in a building so small as to allow of the preacher's voice being heard in every part. It must be admitted, that it partakes rather too much of the appearance of our theatres, which are constructed in such a manner for this purpose; but I do not see that we are obliged to give up the convenience on that account; for a building may be designed with this accommodation, and still possess all the solemnity proper to a place set apart for religious worship.

It is now necessary to mention a circumstance, which to general readers may prove dry and uninteresting, but which is known to every one actually engaged in business to be a subject of the first consideration; and I trust I shall be excused for entering into minute detail. The proper method to be pursued in order to get the work executed in the best manner, and on the most reasonable terms, is by contract and competition among respectable tradesmen, under the direction of an able and experienced Architect; by which means the amount of the expense may be accurately ascertained before the work is begun. It is to be supposed that several meetings, or consultations, will be held before any definite plan can be determined on; but it being agreed that a building shall be erected to contain a certain num-

ber of persons, either at a sum specified, or at an expense which is afterwards to be arranged, it will be found necessary to direct some Architect to make designs agreeably to this intention, with an estimate of the probable expense. After these have been approved, proper working drawings must be prepared, with specifications of all the artificers' works in detail: these should be laid before a committee appointed at the last meeting; which being approved, a list should be formed of a certain number of tradesmen of respectable character, and possessing means equal to the magnitude of the work. These persons should then be invited to deliver in a proposal, stating for what sum they would undertake to execute the whole of the work, agreeably to the designs and specifications prepared for the purpose; and they should, also, be requested to attend with their proposals at a certain time. The committee being assembled, and all the parties in attendance, the tenders are to be opened, and the sums written in a list against the respective names. The name against the lowest sum is then to be minuted, and the list of the sums only exhibited to the parties; by which means all the offers are known, but the names being concealed, no unpleasant sensation is felt; each person being able only to recognize his own. This method I can recommend from experience; having found that it has given great satisfaction, and prevented all private intelligence and undue influence.

It may be necessary to observe, in conclusion, that this work has not been undertaken without consideration; the circumstances in which I have been placed for many years past, having led me to study Ecclesiastical Architecture, which is not quite in the general line of practice; and I may, therefore, without vanity, hope that I am not entirely destitute of that information which is necessary for constructing buildings of this description. Some of the Designs have been long made for particular situations, and one I have lately carried into execution in the parish of Chelsea. I feel so well assured of the attention with which they have been considered by myself, that I trust they will bear strict examination by others, and that they will fully answer the purpose intended, particularly in those essential points, the accommodation of the greatest number of persons, at the least possible expense; at the same time keeping in view, that substantiality of construction and propriety of appearance which they require.

It will be a source of great satisfaction, if the work should prove useful to those persons who are engaged in promoting the erection of Edifices for Public Worship, and if, in consulting it, they shall derive any information that may facilitate their labours.

W. F. P.

Knightsbridge.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATES.

Before I enter into the Description of the Plates, it is necessary to premise, that the popular opinion of the number of persons in any assembly, is generally incorrect, and much exaggerated. In many instances it has been found on examination, that it did not contain one half the number estimated. This applies also to a congregation assembled in a place of worship; which I particularly request those persons to bear in mind, who compare the numbers these Designs are calculated to accommodate, with what it is said other places already erected will contain. The numbers given, suppose the congregation to be comfortably seated; but perhaps with those who stand in the aisles, or are otherwise put in on particular occasions, they may be nearly doubled.

It is necessary to remark, that the Estimates are formed on the basis of London prices, for materials and workmanship of the best description: their amounts may be easily diminished, or increased, according to local circumstances, either by a percentage, or otherwise, so as to meet the variations of price in different parts of the country. They suppose the greatest economy to be used, and the strictest attention paid to the expenditure, throughout the whole progress of the building; as I am well assured, that, unless this scrupulous regard to economy be continued until the final completion of every work, although it was begun upon the most economical plan, yet it will in the conclusion exceed the bounds prescribed.

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#### PLATE I.

Plan and Elevation of a small Chapel, size 40 feet by 27 feet outside the walls, exclusive of the Vestry, which is intended to have sashes, with doors under, into the Chapel, in order that persons may sit in the room and hear the service. It is calculated to seat 200 persons, and the Vestry 25 more.

Estimate 6501.

#### PLATE II.

Plan and Elevation of a Chapel, with a Porch or covering in front, a School-room and Vestry behind. The Chapel is 40 feet by 36 feet. The School-room 26 feet by 12 feet, which is planned to be used in aid of the Chapel, when occasion may require. The Chapel is calculated to seat 350 persons, and 50 or more children in the School-room.

Estimate 1500l.

#### PLATES III. IV. V.

Ground Plan, Gallery Plan, and Elevation of a Design for a Chapel, or Meeting-house, size 63 feet by 43 feet. This

Plan is designed for a Baptists' congregation: a tank for water, connected with suitable attiring rooms, is provided.—The steps in the Plan behind the tank lead to the pulpit. The distribution of this Plan is, I think, well adapted for hearing, and will seat 675 persons.

Estimate 30001.

#### PLATES VI. VII. VIII.

Ground Plan, Gallery Plan, and Elevation for a Chapel in the Gothic style, size 78 feet by 50 feet; will seat 950 persons. A handsome staircase in the vestibule leads to the Galleries, while the side entrances lead into the body of the Chapel. A second Gallery on each side of the organ will afford accommodation for Charity-children, &c. The Vestry is connected with the body of the Chapel by an enclosed passage.

The Estimate is 5000l.

#### PLATES IX. X. XI. XII.

Three Plans and Elevation of Ranelagh Chapel, built under my direction, in George Street, near Sloane Square, size 66 feet by 44 feet, and 30 feet high inside. It contains in the basement two School-rooms, one for boys, the other for girls, capable of accommodating 500 children; also the living Rooms for the mistress. The line round the buildings shows

the extent of the ground. The exact number of sittings in this Chapel I am ignorant of: it is calculated for 900 persons. The free seats are on each side, and extend to the second window. After this Plate was engraved, the pews were altered.

The Plan of the Gallery, Plate XI. shows the situation of the Organ behind the Pulpit; it was originally intended to place the children on each side of the organ, with a staircase from each School-room to their proper Gallery: this arrangement was altered, and there is only one staircase at this end of the Chapel; the space which the other would have occupied is appropriated on the Basement floor to a Sleeping-room for the mistress; and on the Ground Floor to a Robing-room. It is in contemplation to place the children in the back seats of the Gallery, which will accommodate a greater number than where they now sit, and where they will be more out of observation.

Plate XII. shows the Front Elevation. The Building is of brick, with stone strings round. The front is finished with stucco, in imitation of stone. The Portico is stone. The roof is of the most simple construction, and is covered with slates, having a gable at the back to answer to the pediment in front, with a ridge between, and eaves on each side: the water does not drop from the eaves, but is received into square troughs well framed together and supported by Portland stone

bearers laid into the walls, giving the appearance of a block cornice, from whence it is brought down in a stack of iron pipes on each side.

The amount of the whole of the bills was 4090*l*. of which near 600*l*. may be assigned to the extra substructure, and fitting up of the School-room, leaving the cost of the Chapel 3500*l*.

#### PLATES XIII. XIV. XV. XVI.

- Ground Plan, Gallery Plan, Section, and Elevation of a Design for an octagon Chapel, 60 feet diameter, with a lantern light in the centre, having seats for 1000 persons, of which 300 are free. Estimate 4000*l*.
- The Plan of the Gallery, Plate XIV. shows that the construction is the same all round: the access is by the staircases in the angles of the square, so as just to get headway under the windows, with the additional rise in the body of the building.
- Section through the Building, Plate XV. which shows that the roof is very different from what is usually put on buildings of this form: it is both lighter and lower; the ceiling in this case being supported by eight small iron columns up to the cornice, immediately over those which support the Gallery.—

This construction will give to the ceiling a pleasant and elegant form.

The Basement of this Design, Plate XVI. should be stuccoed, if not the whole of the Building.

#### PLATES XVII. XVIII. XIX. XX.

Plans, Section, and Elevation of a Design for a Chapel, on a large scale, size 100 feet by 64 feet: this will seat more than 2000 persons; of which I propose 200 to be free seats. A centre aisle might be made, if desired; in which case the side aisles should be next the walls.

Plate XVIII. shows the Plan of the principal Gallery, which is continued all round, with an extra depth to the Front Gallery. The Organ is not intended to be placed in the situation shown in the Plate, but in the upper Gallery. If the continuation of the Gallery across the eastern end should be objected to, it may be made to terminate at the walls, as is shown by the dotted line; this I do not think would injure the effect, yet perhaps it would be better if the building were shortened.

A Section is shown on Plate XIX. by which the situation of the upper Gallery is ascertained; the access to it by a staircase at the back of the front Gallery, marked A.

The Elevation, Plate XX. has a bold appearance, and should be stuccoed: the Pilasters may be of stone.

#### PLATES XXI. XXII.

Plan and Elevation for a Design for a Church, or Episcopal Chapel, 66 feet by 40 feet, exclusive of the Vestry, and is calculated to seat 600 persons, including 150 in the Gallery, at the end only. I must observe, this Design was not made with the view of seating a great number of persons; it is more adapted for a place of worship on a gentleman's estate, or in his grounds. The Elevation, Plate XXII. would have a good effect if it were stuccoed.

Estimate 2800l.

#### PLATES XXIII. XXIV.

Plan and Elevation of a Church in the Gothic style, size 70 feet by 40 feet, exclusive of the Tower and the Vestry. This plan is calculated to seat 700 persons, of which I propose 200 to be free seats. A Gallery at the end.

Plate XXIV. shows the Elevation, which exhibits a bold Tower, in the Gothic character.

#### PLATES XXV. XXVI. XXVII.

- Ground Plan, Gallery Plan, and Elevation of a Design for a Church of the Grecian Doric Order; size 76 feet by 50 feet; calculated to seat 800 persons. Estimate 6000*l*.
- The Gallery Plan, Plate XXVI. By this it will be seen, that there are only two ranges of Pews, those in the front forming good accommodations for the principal persons of the parish.

Plate XXVII. Elevation of the principal Front.

#### PLATES XXVIII. XXIX.

- Design for a Church in the Gothic style, with a square Tower: the body of the Church in the interior is 66 feet by 44 feet; but the whole exterior of the Building is 95 feet by 49. I propose to have Galleries on the sides behind the pillars, to which the handsome stairs in the front would lead, with an Orchestra at the end for the Organ. To seat 700 persons. Estimate 7500l.
- Plate XXIX. Elevation of the Tower and Entrance Front. The nave being hid by this geometrical representation, destroys in

a great degree the true effect of the building, which in perspective would be grand and imposing.

#### PLATES XXX. XXXI.

Plan and Elevation for a Gothic Church upon a large scale, with an octagon lantern Tower. The interior dimensions of the body of the Church 70 feet by 66 feet. The whole of the exterior will measure 110 feet by 72 feet. This plan will seat upwards of 1500 persons. Estimate 12,500l. The handsome vestibule entrance, with an enriched groined ceiling, and the noble staircases on each side, which lead to the Gallery, give to this Design a grand and noble effect suitable to the character of a wealthy and extensive parish. Here are also a number of free seats.

Plate XXXI. Elevation of the Tower Entrance and West Front.

### PLATES XXXII. XXXIII. XXXIV.

Ground Plan and Elevations of a Design in the Grecian style, for a parochial Church. Interior dimensions, 75 feet by 50 feet, exclusive of the recess for the Altar; the whole of the exterior dimensions, 116 feet by 55. This Plan will accommodate 1200 persons, besides children, Estimate 12,500l.

A handsome flight of Steps lead to an Ionic Portico, which covers the entrance to the vestibule, which lead laterally to an appropriate staircase, each having a separate vestibule. The whole is thrown up on a suitable basement, and gives to this Design a good effect. Vaults for interment are proposed to be under the body of the Church.

Plate XXXIII. shows the side Elevation, with the lateral porticos and entrances.

Plate XXXIV. Elevation of the West Front, with the Portico and Steeple.

#### PLATES XXXV. XXXVI.

Plan and Elevation of a circular Church, 120 feet in diameter, with three entrances. The circular range of columns contributes to support a spacious Dome springing from the entablature above, extending 80 feet in diameter, and rising 70 feet from the pavement to the summit of the vault. The area will receive light, principally from the lantern in the centre of the Dome; the Gallery and the Aisles beneath, from the windows in the side walls. The centre area of the Church is proposed to be pewed, having aisles across, and a circular one under the Gallery, with free seats behind next the wall. The Organ to be placed immediately over the entrance from the front

vestibule into the rotunda, and considerably above the level of the Gallery floor. The steeple is 200 feet in height from the ground to the top of the cross. All the work above the blocking of the upper story is intended to be of copper and gilt. The order employed in the exterior of the Building is the Grecian Doric: in the interior the Ionic or Corinthian should be used.

I think the whole composition would, if well and judiciously executed in an advantageous situation, have a grand and imposing effect.

This Design would contain 2500 persons.

The Expense would not be short of 40,000l.

#### PLATE XXXVII.

Designs for two Towers.

PLATE XXXVIII.

Designs for two Towers.

PLATE XXXIX.

Designs for two Spires.

#### PLATE XL.

Designs for two Altar-pieces. That with Ionic columns is taken from one which I executed in a Church in Essex some years ago.

#### PLATE XL1.

Designs for two Altar-pieces. The upper one is that lately executed in Ranelagh Chapel. The arches over the windows are made in consequence of its situation. By turning to the Plan of the Edifice, Plate X. it will be seen that the Organ Gallery runs over it; the under side of which is thrown into groins; the whole together forming a very simple yet pleasing composition.

#### PLATE XLII.

Designs for two Altar-pieces.

#### PLATE XLIII.

Designs for two Pulpits. I must observe, that Pulpits partake of the nature of furniture; and, therefore, appear in a very

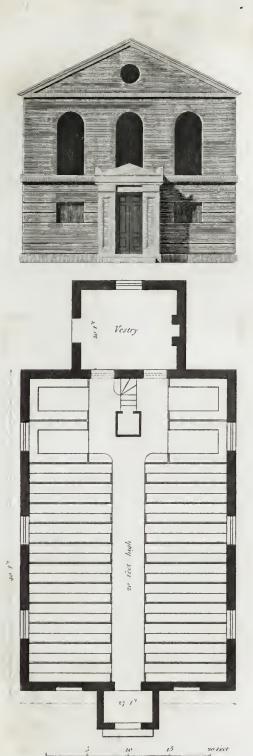
different style from any part of a building. The one with columns is nearly the same as that executed in Ranelagh Chapel.

### PLATE XLIV.

Two Designs for Pulpits. The Staircases to these must be accommodated to their situation.

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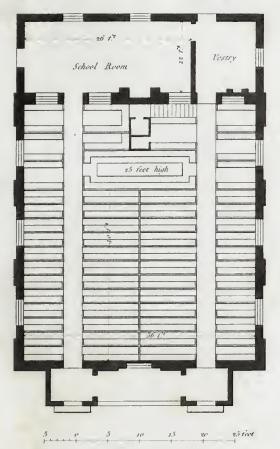
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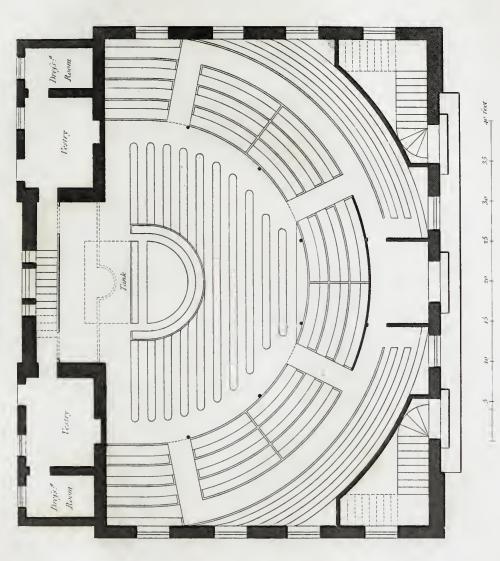




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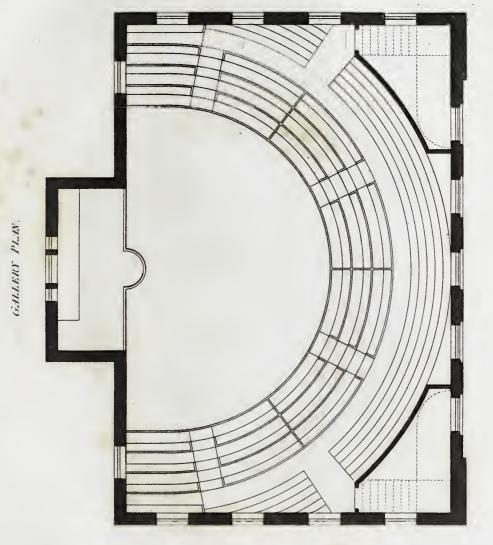


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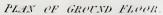


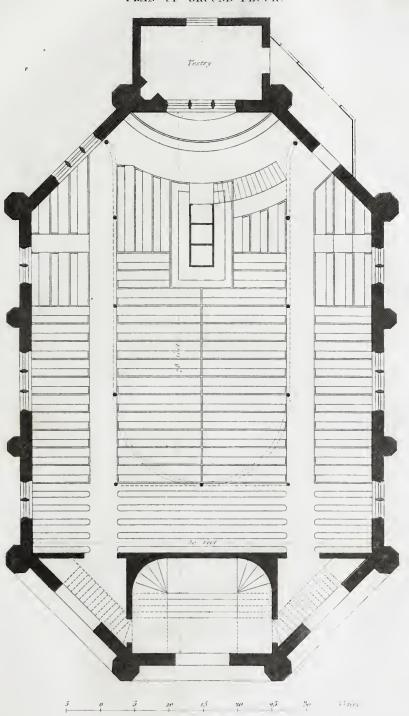


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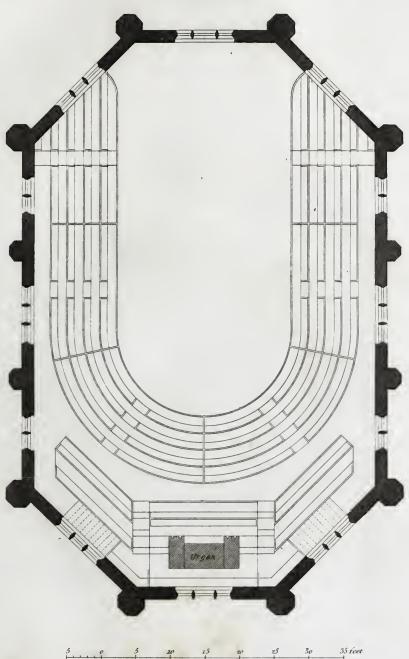


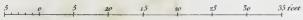


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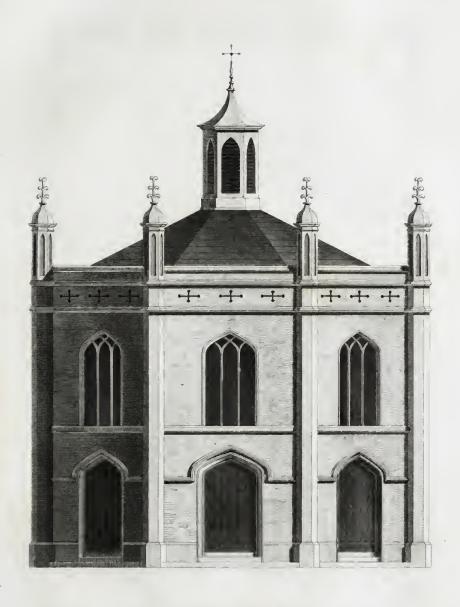
## PLAN OF GALLERY.





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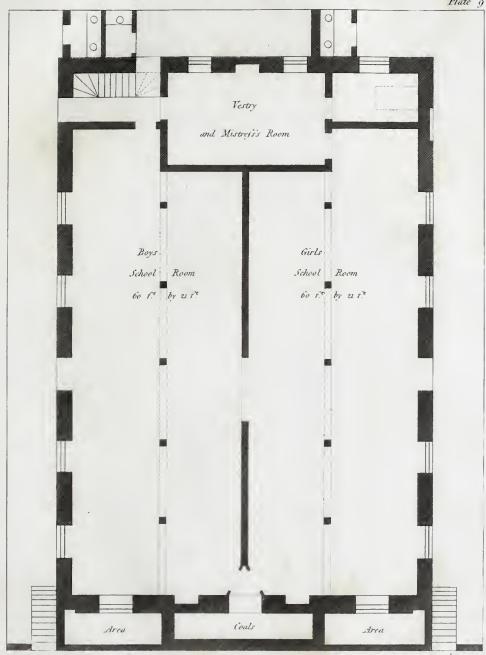






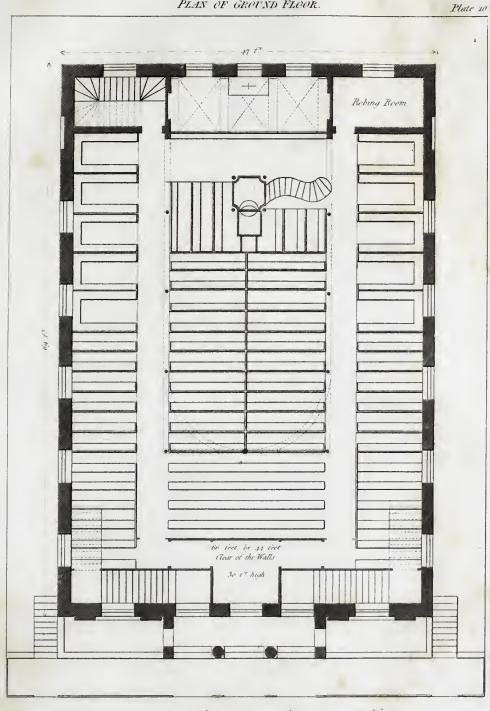
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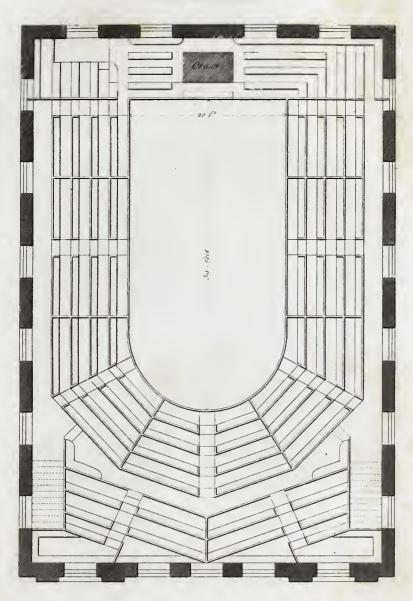




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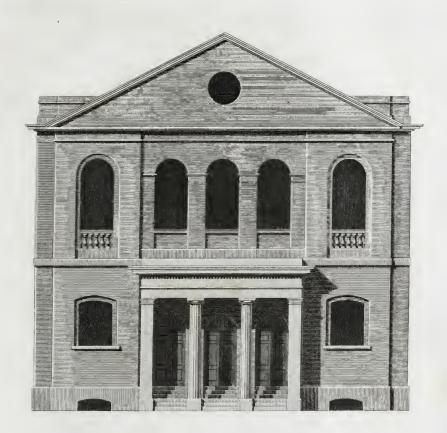
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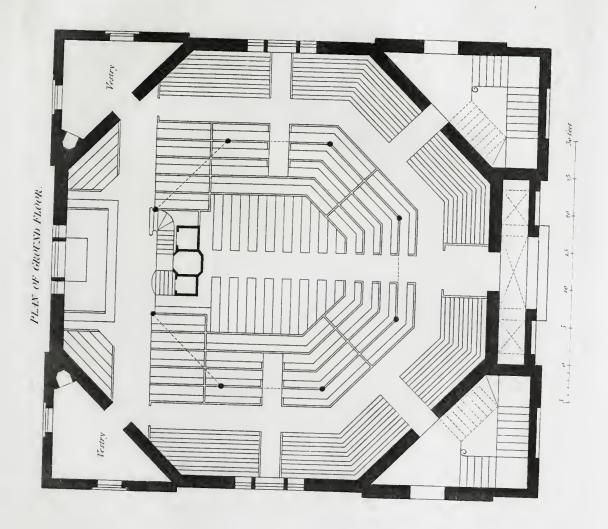


ELEVATION OF RANELAGH CHAPEL, CHELSEA.

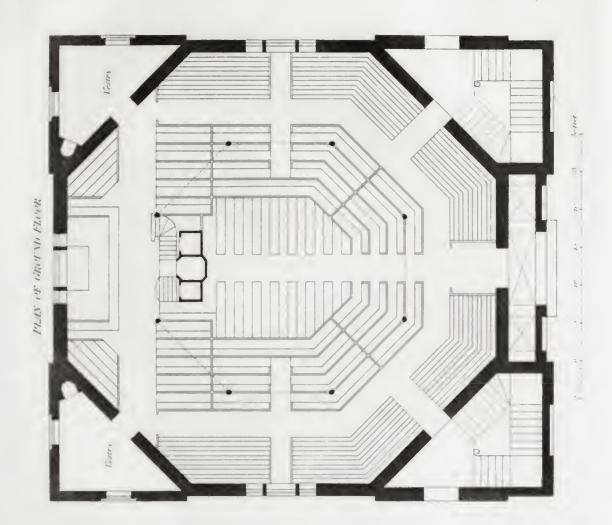


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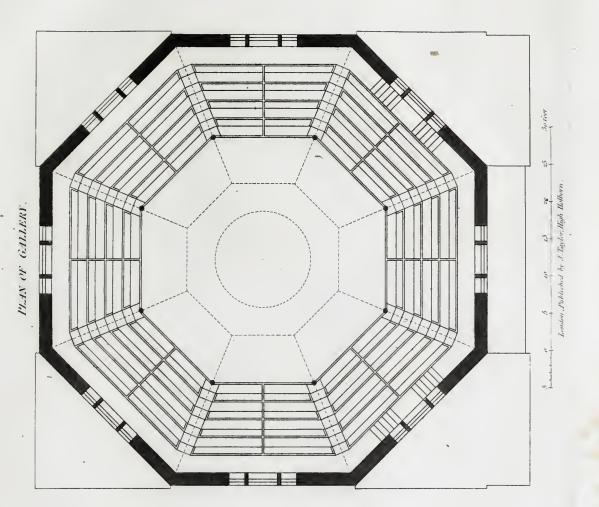






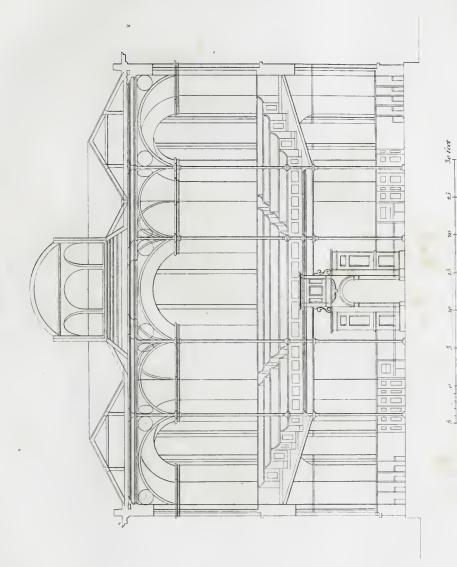






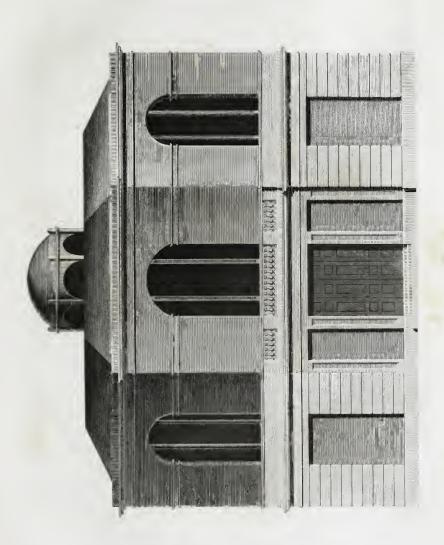






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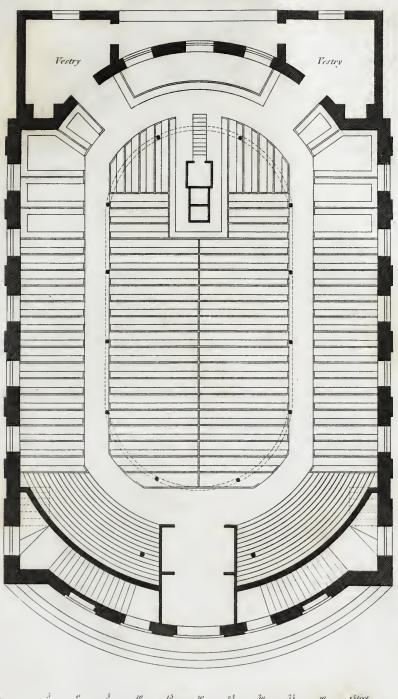




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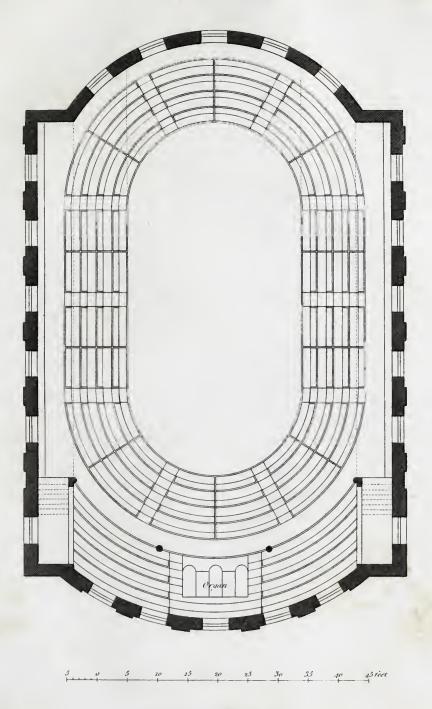
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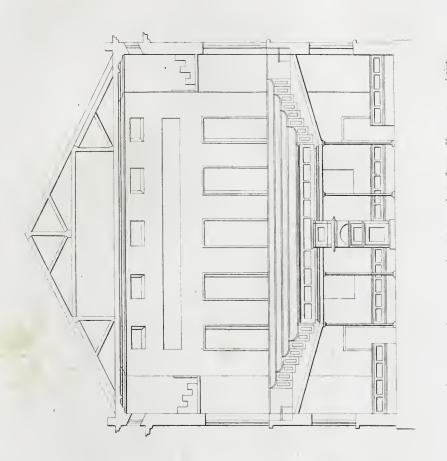


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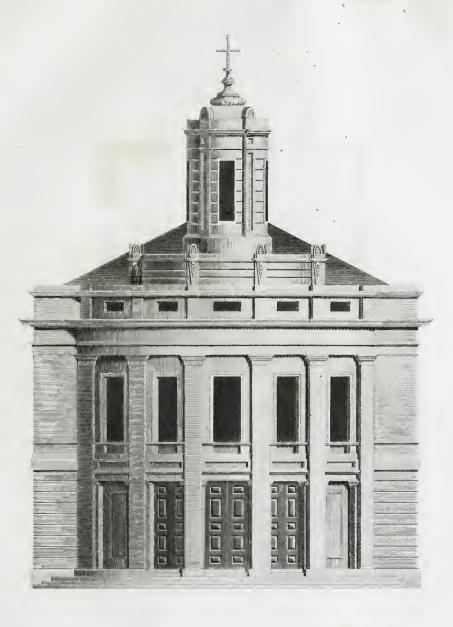
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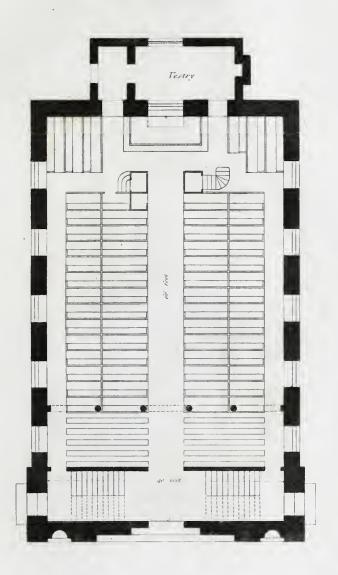




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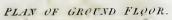
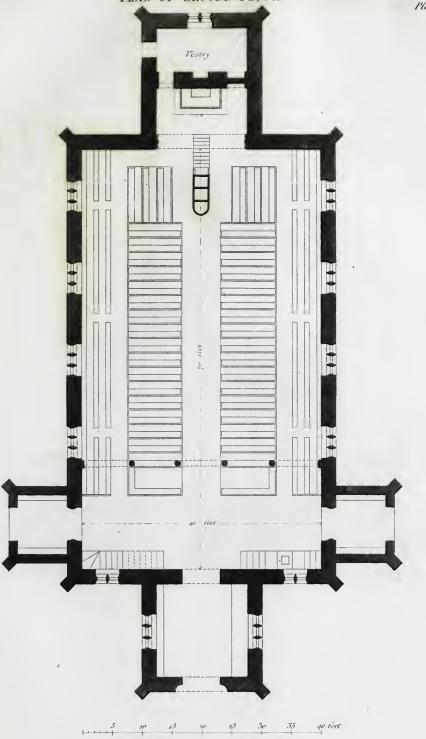


Plate 23



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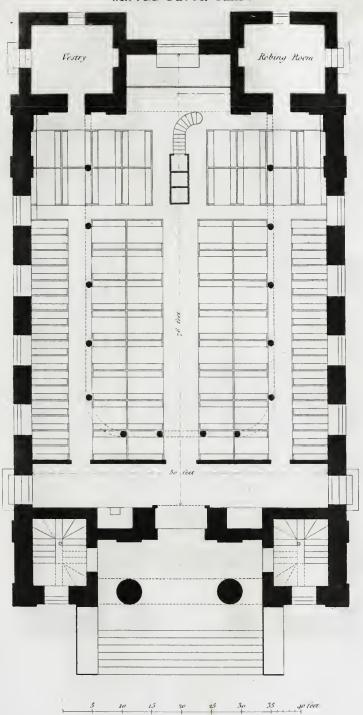




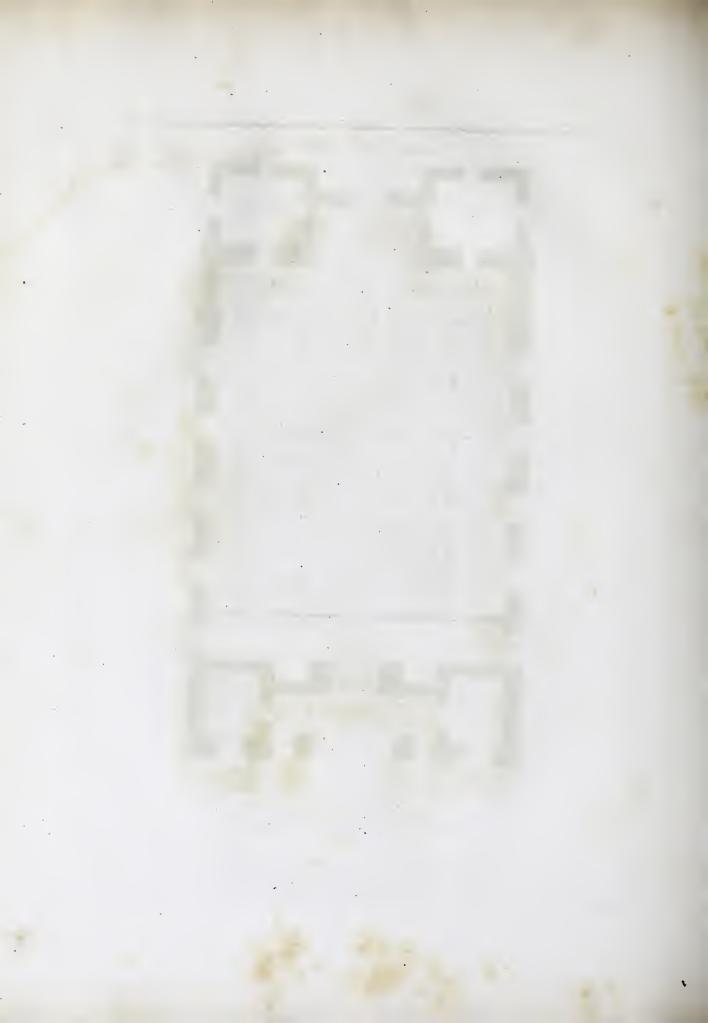


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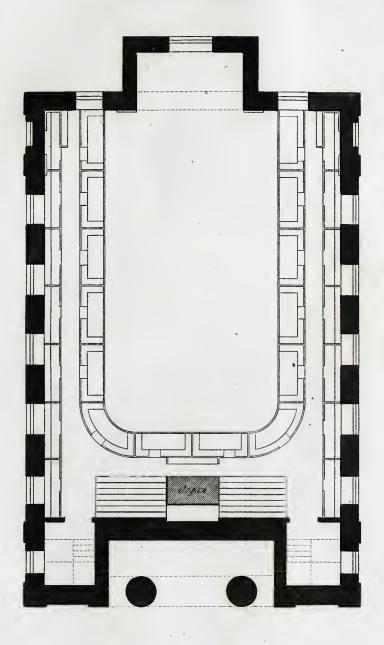




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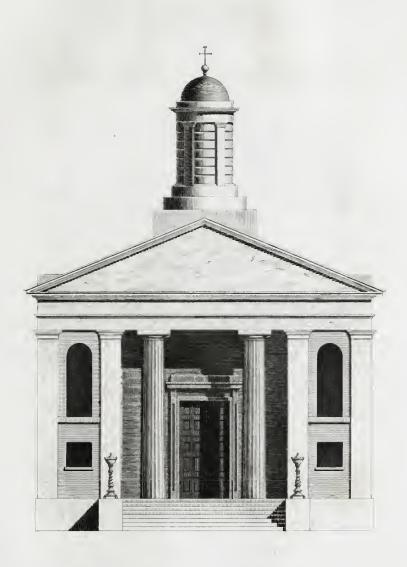
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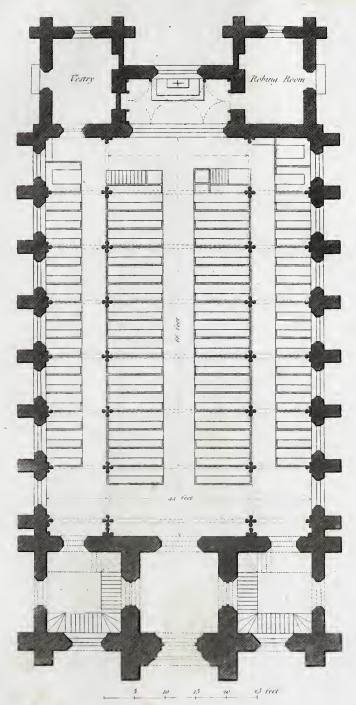






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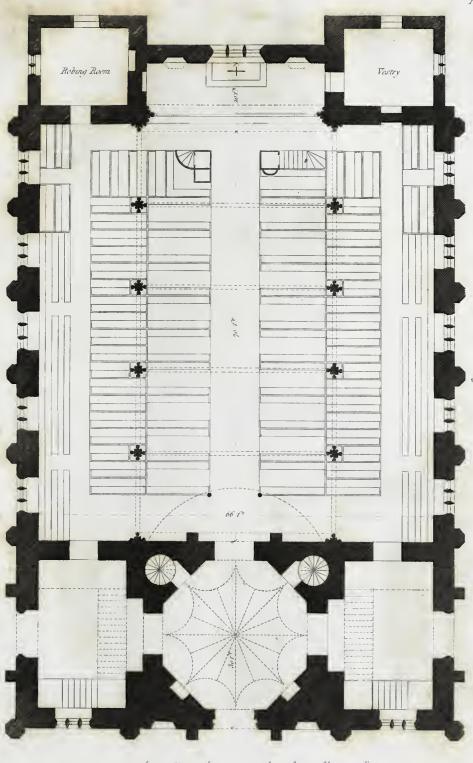




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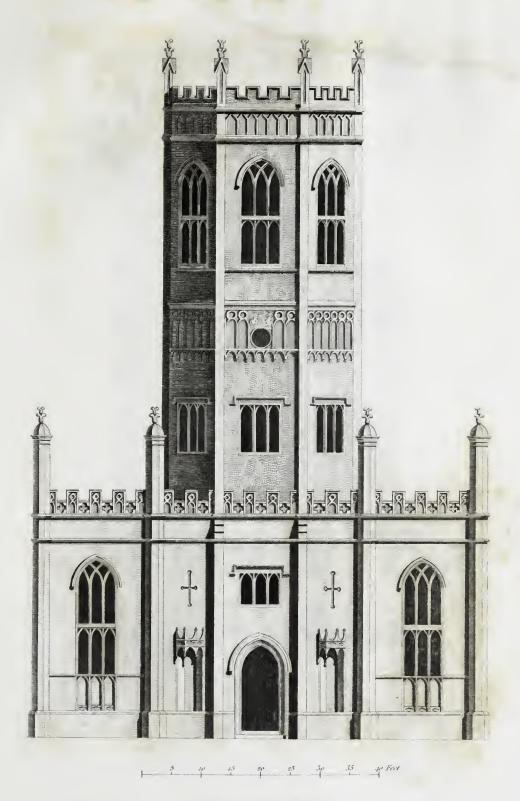




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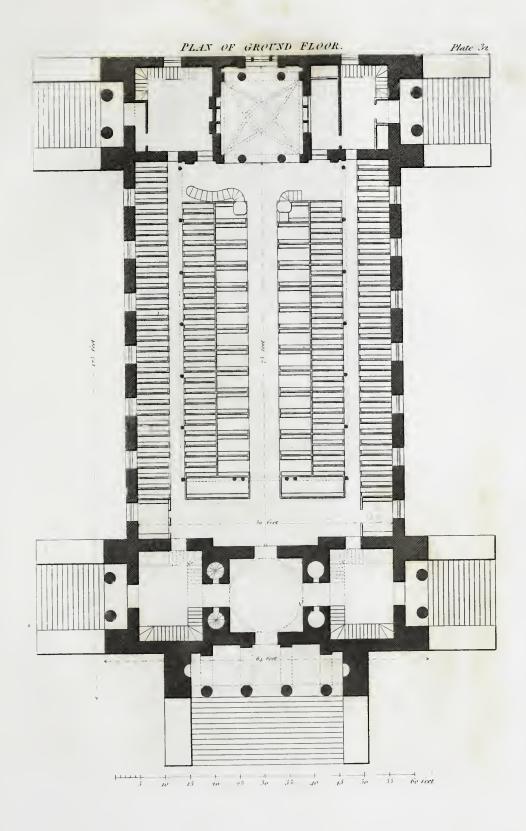
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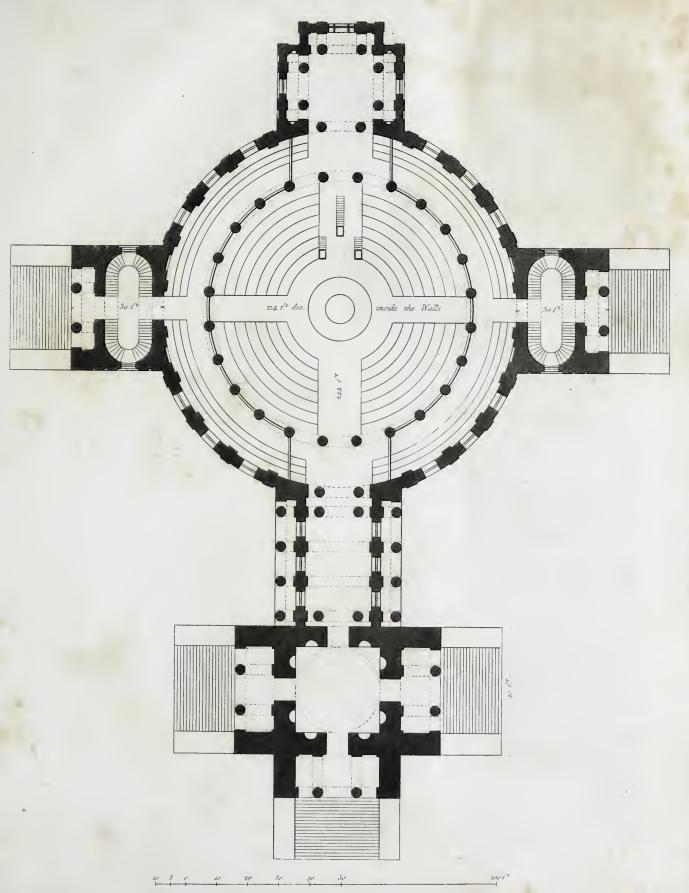




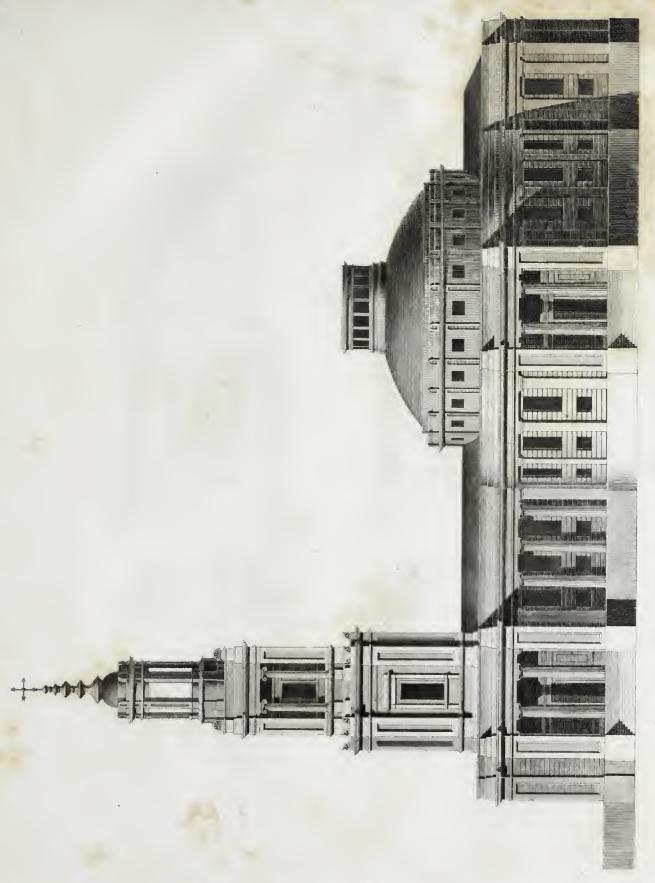


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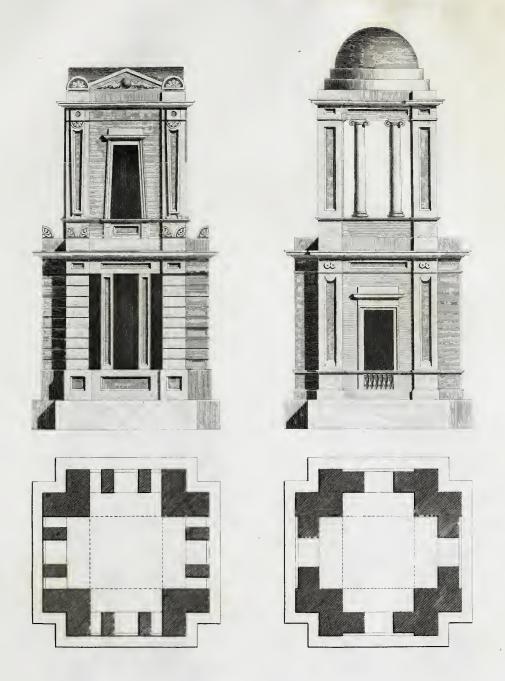






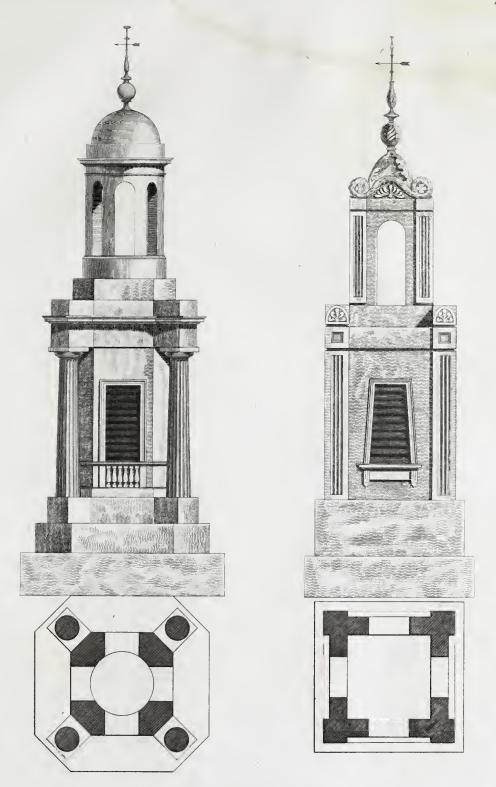






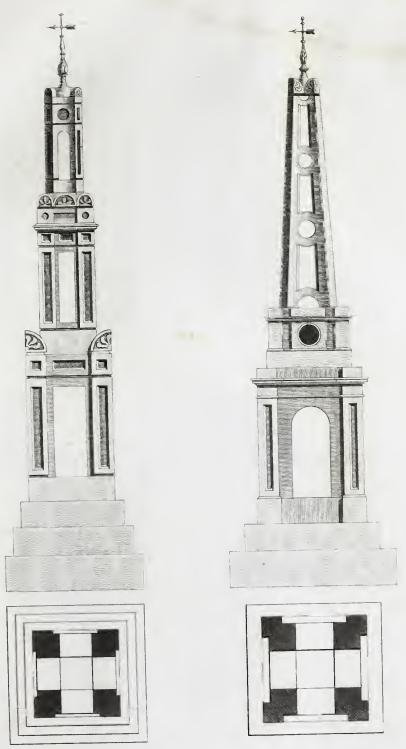
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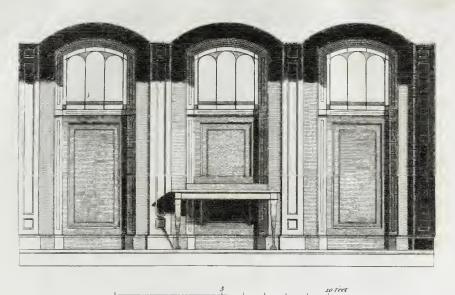


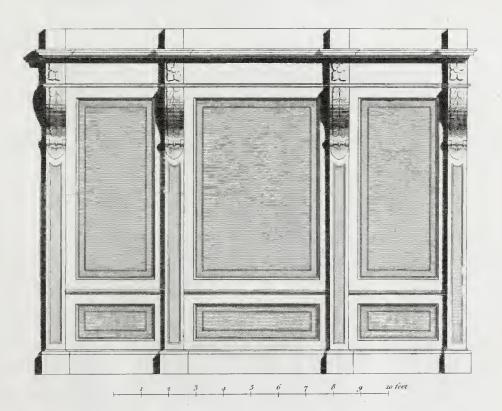
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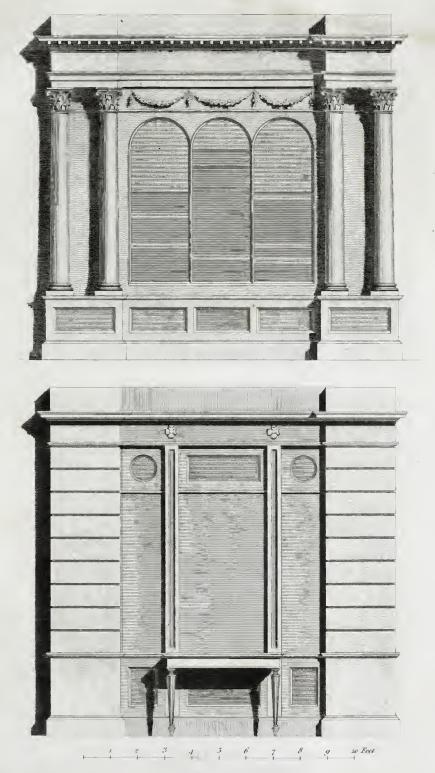
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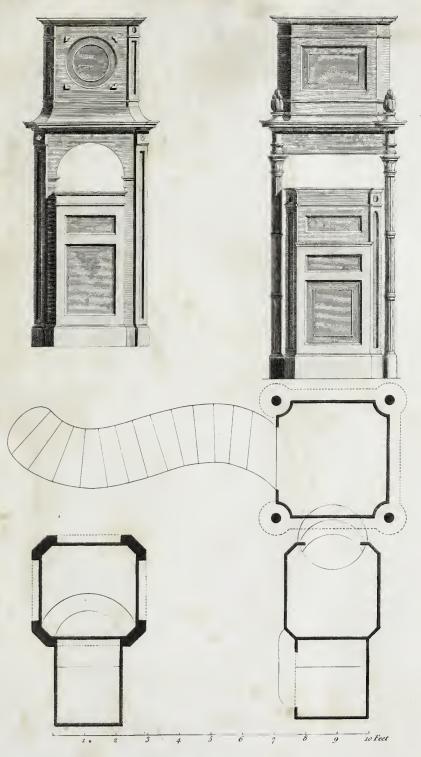
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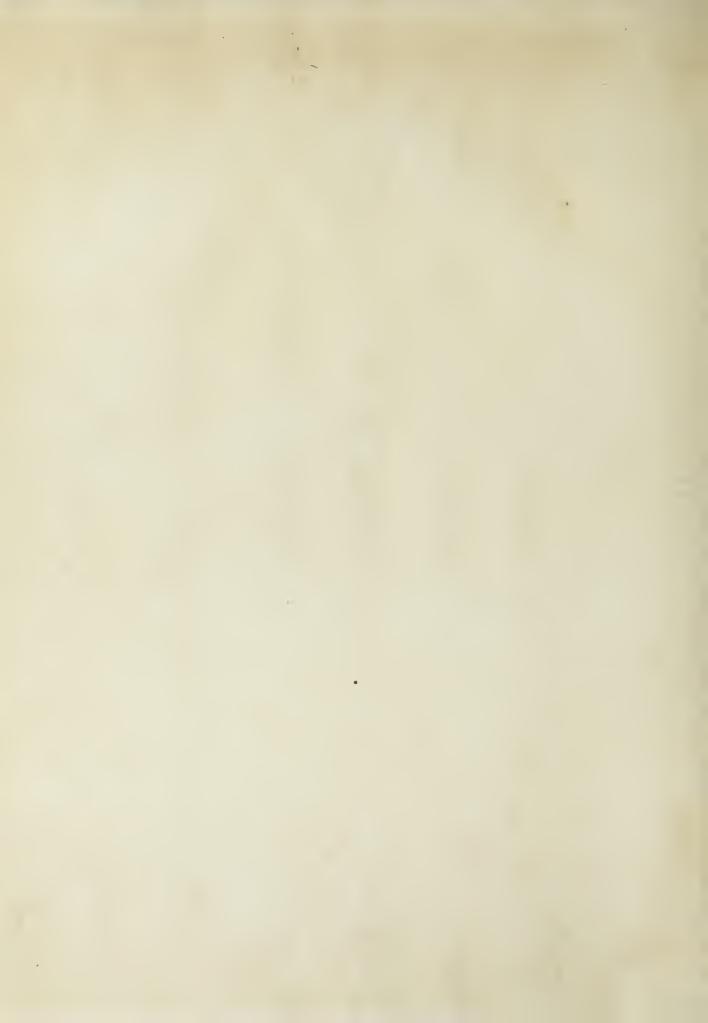
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